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BULLETIN

Georgia State College of Agriculture

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Condition Powders and Condimental Stock Feeds

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The care, proper treatment and feeding of live stock is of great economic importance and so little understood by the average live stock owner and inquiries concerning the above mentioned articles so frequent that it is believed a bulletin giving some information in regard to the general character of these preparations will be appreciated.

It may be well in the beginning to define the terms used to designate these highly advertised substances.

Condiment. A substance used to increase the palatability or tastefulness of food materials, thereby increasing the appetite.

Condition Powder. A mixture of substances used to promote the general healthfulness of the animal, thereby improving its appearance and "condition."

Tonic. A substance producing normal condition in an organ or part.

Stimulant. A substance which excites an organ or part to increased activity.

Food. Anything which when taken into the body is capable of building tissue or producing heat and energy.

In Georgia, as elsewhere, condition powders and condimental feeds are sold in large quantities by traveling agents and established merchants. Few, indeed, are the country stores that do not have in stock one or more brands of "Horse and Cattle Tonics" or "Stock Foods." Nearly every farmer and stock owner has his favorite brand, and most of our poultry fanciers use them.

Many farm papers, and other publications as well carry their advertisements. The methods used by some manufacturers to sell

their products are questionable. For example, the giving of prizes of cheap jewelry and other shoddy articles with large purchases in order to induce the buyer to purchase in large quantities.

The claims made by many manufacturers concerning the benefits to be derived from the use of their respective preparations are extravagant, and in some cases ludicrous.

Following are some examples: "This condition powder will purify the blood, create a good appetite, regulate the system and give a fine, glossy, soft skin. It is a sure cure for distemper, dyspepsia, dropsy, coughs, colds, bots or worms, colic, pinkeye, epizootic and influenza of horses; milk fever, garget and pleuropneumonia of cattle; gapes, worms, fever, roup and cholera in chickens, besides increasing their egg-laying power; it is also successful with children for worms and fits." An examination of this preparation by the New Jersey Experiment Station showed it to consist of the following ingredients: corn, wheat, linseed and cottonseed meals, with a little common salt and fenugreek added.

A highly advertised "Poultry Food" claims to be "A scientific combination of pure, wholesome materials," also that "In the saving of grain it will repay its cost several times over. In winter it imparts warmth to the body, healthy activity to all organs and supplies the needed materials for egg making." It also claims "Chickens will feather earlier, develop much sooner, with larger growth and stronger bone, and will always be better winter layers. It is unexcelled for all poultry diseases. Perhaps its greatest value is in keeping the flock free from diseases."

This mixture was found to contain linseed meal, wheat, sulphur, oyster shells, cayenne, charcoal, salt, magnesia and iron oxide.

The above are quoted for the purpose of showing how grossly extravagant are the claims of some manufacturers and how gullible some people are who expect such great results from their preparations.

One highly advertised "Animal Regulator" has been found to consist of corn meal, to which has been added small amounts of salt, charcoal, gentian, fennel and Epsom salts. This mixture upon chemical analysis was shown to contain 8.44 per cent of protein, 12.54 per cent of ash and 62.40 per cent of carbohydrates. Its cost was nearly twenty cents per pound.

Are Condiments Necessary

Professor W. A. Henry, the best American authority on animal nutrition, says in his book on "Feeds and Feeding," "Condimental foods not recommended. The basis of the better class of condimental foods is flaxseed meal, oil meal or the by-products from oleagenous seeds, locust bean meal, etc. They are spiced with anise, cumin and other aromatic seeds. Fenugreek, slippery-elm bark, charcoal, common salt, saltpeter, copperas, etc., are added according to the no-

tions of the compounder. Tumeric is sometimes added to give a yellow color. As to these nostrums, it may be said that vigorous, healthy animals do not make better use of their feed because of their addition. **If animals are out of condition, they should receive specific treatment according to their ailments.** A good manager of live stock will have no use for these high-priced condimental foods or condition powders; a poor manager will never have fine stock by employing them."

The usefulness of irritating substances such as cayenne, mustard, and ginger in condiments is confined to an increased production of saliva and digestive juices, but the continued use of these substances may in time have an injurious effect, as the membranes of the digestive tract become accustomed to their irritant action and will not respond to the ordinary stimulation occasioned by common food materials, and indigestion in its chronic form may be the ultimate result, rather than the improved condition hoped for by the owner.

Good teeth, a variety of grain and roughage in sufficient quantity, access to salt and a plentiful supply of clean, pure water will do more to keep animals in good, thrifty condition than all the tonics and condimental foods manufactured.

Investigations carried out at many of the Experiment Stations in the United States and foreign countries demonstrate the failure of these preparations to do what the manufacturers claim for them. In no case has their use decreased the cost of the ration, and in no case has their use cheapened the cost of the product,—whether it be beef, pork, mutton, wool, milk, butter or eggs. In many cases the use of the condimental feeds has proved detrimental, as they increased the expense of feeding and lessened the gains of animals receiving them in the ration.

It may appear in some instances that the use of stock foods or egg-producers are beneficial, as improved condition of animals or poultry is frequently to be observed after the preparations have been faithfully used for some length of time. We must observe, however, that the directions usually require the preparation to be given "three times a day on grain or chopped feed." If the stock owner will pay just as much attention to the regular feeding of his live stock all the time as he does when proprietary feeds and tonic powders are being used, there will be little need for worry on account of "run down condition," "weak digestive powers," "bad blood" and other kindred ailments.

The analyses and experiments performed by the State Experiment Stations lead one to form the following conclusions:

(1). The brand of stock food is no indication that it is what is required to put live stock in good condition.

(2). The claims of condimental stock food manufacturers when not ludicruous and preposterous are misleading and exaggerated.

(3). No one remedy or combination of drugs will serve as treatment for all diseases and ailments of all kinds of farm live stock.

(4) When manufacturers do use useful drugs in compounding their feeds and tonics, the quantity used is insufficient to be beneficial.

(6). A run down condition or loss of appetite caused by overwork or an insufficient variety of food materials may often be corrected by a change of diet and a laxative. Common salt should be kept within reach of all herbivorous animals.

A good digestive tonic for horses, mules and cows is the following:

Glauber's salts	2 pounds
Common salt	1 pound
Sodium bicarbonate	½ pound

Mix: Give a tablesponful on feed three times a day when the digestion is poor.

As a preventive of worms in hogs, the following mixture is recommended:

Sodium carbonate	3 pounds
Epsom salts	3 pounds
Salt	3 pounds
Sulphur	1 pound
Charcoal	4 pounds
Copperas	3 pounds

Mix these ingredients well together and keep in box or self-feeder so that hogs have access to it at all times.

A WORM DESTROYER FOR HOGS.

One teaspoonful of turpentine in a small amount of milk or slop for an 80 pound hog; other weights in proportion.

A WORM DESTROYER FOR HORSES.

Turpentine	2 ounces
Raw linseed oil	4 ounces

Mix: Give as a drench on empty stomach on three successive days. On the fourth day give one pint raw linseed oil.

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